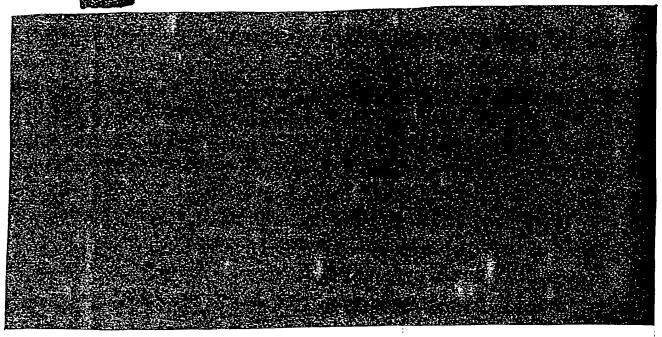


HAITI: POLITICAL PRESSURES ON ACCORD

WITH NEW SENATE LEADERS FINALLY IN PLACE, THE LEGISLATURE IS
POISED TO VOTE ON A PRIME MINISTER, THE NEXT STEP IN FULFILLING THE
POLITICAL ACCORD REACHED IN NEW YORK LAST MONTH. COMPLETE
IMPLEMENTATION IS FAR FROM CERTAIN, HOWEVER, AND SUSTAINED
INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE WILL BE CRITICAL TO KEEPING THE ACCORD ON
TRACK.





ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY'S REACTION TO THE ACCORD HAS BEEN MUTED SO FAR, MANY OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT ARISTIDE'S RETURN.

DESERTIONS HAVE INCREASED SINCE THE ACCORD HAS SIGNED, AND SOLDIERS LIVING IN PRO-ARISTIDE SLUM NEIGHBORHOODS ARE MOVING THEIR FAMILIES TO SAFETY.

POLITICAL KILLINGS, PROBABLY INCLUDING SOME BY MILITARY HARDLINERS LIKE CHIEF OF STAFF BIAMBY AND POLICE CHIEF FRANCUIS ALSO FEAR THE ACCORD WILL THREATEN THEIR POWER.

ASSURED ENLISTED MEN THAT ARISTIDE WILL NOT RETURN AND THAT THE HIGH

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COMMAND'S SUPPORT OF THE ACCORD IS AIMED STRICTLY AT GETTING UN SANCTIONS LIFTED.

ARISTIDE'S REQUEST FOR UN MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL TO SERVE AS TECHNICAL ADVISERS IN HAITI HAS BECOME A DIVISIVE ISSUE. ANTI-ARISTIDE POLITICIANS ARE DENOUNCING THE MOVE AS TREASONOUS, AND THE LOCAL MEDIA ARE PORTRAYING THE ADVISERS AS A FORM OF FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION.

THE ACTUAL PURPOSE OF THE ADVISERS ARE WINNING SOME CONVERTS, HOWEVER, AND PROMINENT PRO-ARISTIDE FIGURES HAVE ENDORSED THE ADVISERS AS A NECESSARY STEP IN IMPLEMENTING THE ACCORD. NEVERTHELESS, OPPONENTS COULD EXPLOIT THE ISSUE TO BLOCK IMPLEMENTATION AND DELAY ARISTIDE'S RETURN.

FRANCOIS IS ALREADY INVOKING THE SPECTER OF A FOREIGN INVASION.

PROSPECTS

ALTHOUGH THE PROSPECT OF HAVING UN SANCTIONS SUSPENDED WILL ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE FOR NOW, SUSTAINED PRESSURE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO BE CRITICAL. EACH STEP IN THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS PROBABLY WILL BE SUBJECT TO PARTISAN MANEUVERING AND MILITARY INTERFERENCE, PARTICULARLY FROM HARDLINERS LIKE FRANCOIS AND BIAMBY. THE RANK AND FILE WILL BE ESPECIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO MANIPULATION BY HARDLINERS. ARISTIDE, WHO DOES NOT LIKE TO COMPROMISE, WILL BE TORN BETWEEN THE NEED TO DEAL WITH HIS OPPONENTS AND KEEP FAITH WITH HIS SUPPORTERS.



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